

## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /003 R

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DRAFTED BY: ARA:PJ DE VOS

APPROVED BY: ARA:PJ DE VOS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE

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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

FOLL REPEAT SAN JOSE 04646 ACTION SECSTATE 08 DEC 74 QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN JOSE 04646

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, CS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT ODUBER WILL NOT EXPEL VESCO

1. IN A LONG LETTER TO THE PRO-DECENCY GROUP, PUBLISHED IN BOTH MORNING PAPERS DECEMBER 8, PRESIDENT ODUBER REHEARSED HIS ARGUMENTS FOR NOT MOVING, IN RESPONSE TO WIDESPREAD CIVIC DEMAND, TO EXPEL ROBERT VESCO FROM COSTA RICA. THE ARGUMENTS IN THE LETTER UNDOUBTEDLY WILL BE USED BY THE PRESIDENT IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE NATION, PROBABLY EARLY THIS WEEK, ON THE VESCO ISSUE.

2. ODUBER SAID IN HIS LETTER, ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THAT AS VESCO HAD VIOLATED NO LAWS HE SHOULD NOT BE EXPELLED. HE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT IF ANYONE COULD SHOW HIM A FIRM JUDICIAL SENTENCE FROM A COMPETENT COURT OF A COUNTRY WITH A JURIDICAL TRADITION FREE OF SUSPICION...

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"I WILL PERSONALLY TAKE (VESCO) TO OUR COURTS...".

3. THE LETTER REFERRED TO ODUBER'S CONTACTS WITH  
USG OFFICIALS IN MIAMI LAST MARCH OR APRIL ON THE VESCO CASE.  
ODUBER SAID IN THE LETTER THAT HE REGARDED THE MEETING  
AS USEFUL AND THAT HE HAD ALSO ASKED THEM AND SUBSEQUENTLY  
THE U.S. CHARGE WHOM HE INFORMED OF THE MEETING TO AVOID  
"PRESSURING DEPUTIES AND OFFICIALS BECAUSE I WILL  
BE OBLIGED TO EXPEL ANYONE WHO MIGHT DISRESPECT OUR INSTITUTIONS".

4. PRESIDENT ODUBER WROTE THAT THE ISSUE IS NOT  
VESCO, BUT WHO HAS THE AUTHORITY TO GOVERN THE COUNTRY. HE  
CLAIMED THAT THIS IS JUST ONE MORE SCANDLE TO DISTRACT PUBLIC  
ATTENTION AND THAT THE MEDIA HAS SPEARHEADED THE CAMPAIGN IN  
PART OUT OF FEAR OF THE NEW NEWSPAPER "EXCELISIOR" WHICH HE  
NOTES HAS BEEN ACCUSED OF BEING VESCO FINANCED.

5. PRESIDENT ODUBER ALSO WARNED IN THE LETTER THAT  
THE ANTI-VESCO MOVEMENT MAY BE TAKEN OVER IN THE NEXT  
FEW DAYS BY EXTREMISTS GROUPS WHICH SEEK TO DESTROY THE  
GOVERNMENT BY FORCING THE GUARDIA CIVIL INTO ACTION WITH  
"GAS AND BULLETS".

6. IN ANOTHER REFERENCE TO THE U.S., PRESIDENT  
ODUBER REPORTEDLY WROTE THAT HE "PASSION OF GROUPS  
WHICH ARE ENEMIES OF VESCO IN THE U.S. HAS REACHED  
UNACCEPTABLE LIMITS."  
HE WENT ON TO DISCUSS THE "14 OCTOBER 1974...WASHINGTON  
POST" ARTICLE WHICH CAST DOUBT UPON THE IMPARTIALITY OF  
THE COSTA RICAN JUDICIAL SYSTEM AND BLAMED IT IN PART  
FOR THE FAILURE OF THE U.S. EXTRADITION ATTEMPT.  
AS EVIDENCE OF THE VALIDITY OF THE COURTS BEHAVIOR  
THE PRESIDENT REPORTEDLY ATTACHED A GOCR LEGAL  
STUDY OF THE COURT'S VERDICT AND PROCEEDINGS IN THE  
1973 VESCO EXTRADITION CASE.

7. COMMENT ON THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER WILL BE  
CABLED DECEMBER 9.  
LANE

INQUOTE KISSINGER  
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## Message Attributes

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